

# ACLU AUSTRALIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

President: John Bennett

Vice Presidents: C. Steele, J. Graham

Secretary: R. Aschenbrenner

Asst. Secretary: S. Fletcher

Treasurer: I. Kimmel

Research Officer: M. Phillips

Box 1137, Carlton, 3053

Phone: (03)93478671

Fax: (03)93478617

Email: johntusonbennet@hotmail.com

Website: <http://go.to/aclu>

Re Irving v Lipstadt

**Lipstadt's "scholarship" on revisionism in Australia:** Half a page of Lipstadt's book is devoted to historical revisionism in Australia. Claims by Lipstadt that I am "the leader" of the Australian League of Rights, that I have claimed the Holocaust is a "gigantic lie", and that Fred Leuchter, who had demonstrated that people could not have been gassed at Auschwitz, has visited Australia, are all incorrect, and amount to an "assault on truth". I am not the "leader" of the Australian League of Rights, and am not now and never have been even a member of the group. I understand the group is a Christian group, that it promotes an economic theory of social credit, and that it believes in an International Fabian Socialist conspiracy, orchestrated by the left wing Fabian Society. I am not a Christian, do not believe in social credit, and far from believing in a Fabian conspiracy, am a long standing member of the Fabian Society, and a former member of its executive.

The only organisations I belong to apart from the Fabian Society, are the Society of Labor Lawyers, the Free Speech Committee, and the Australian Civil Liberties Union, of which I am President. It was because of my interest in freedom of speech, that I became interested in historical revisionism. While I agree with the growing number of Jewish writers that the extent of the Jewish Holocaust has been exaggerated, I have never said it is a "gigantic lie." The claim that Fred Leuchter has visited Australia, is simply factually incorrect. Lipstadt's "growing assault on truth", is continued in the only footnote relating to the half page on revisionism in Australia. The seven sentences in the footnote contain three errors of fact. Lipstadt did not reply to my letter dated 17/10/94 making the above points and made only one alteration to the text about me in the second edition.

## Holocaustomania?

In a recent 5 day period in Melbourne (10-14 April, 1999) 10 films dealing with the Holocaust were shown on TV. Since 1945 about 400 films dealing directly or indirectly with the Jewish Holocaust have been made (Other and greater holocausts such as the Ukraine, and Chinese Holocausts are ignored). The bombing of German cities leading to the deaths of over 700,000 people, mainly women and children, has been the subject of only one feature film since the end of the war (*Slaughterhouse Five*). The indiscriminate carpet bombing of German cities was described as "the greatest war crime of WWII" in *The Spectator*, (19/9/79). Holocaust museums are commonplace in the USA, a Holocaust Remembrance Day has been set aside in the UK, and it is an offence to query the extent of the Holocaust in countries such as Germany, where David Irving was fined, and Dr Fredrick Toben was imprisoned. Amnesty International refused to take up the case of 17 revisionists referred to it by the ACLU.

Why is the Jewish Holocaust referred to on a daily basis in the media? Has the Holocaust become a new secular religion? Phillip Adams, Australia's leading atheist and skeptic, says it is "blasphemous" to query the extent of the Holocaust. (*The Risks of Shoah Business*, *Sunday Age*, (23/1/00) quoted Richard Ingrams in the *Observer*, that "not a day goes by without the Holocaust being mentioned in one context or another" and quoted Brian Sewell, from *The Evening Standard*, that "enough has been made of the Jewish Holocaust, and they are too greedy for our memories". *The Holocaust In American Life*, by Peter Novick says the Holocaust is used to clobber anti-Semitism, and justify support for Israel. *The Holocaust Industry*, by N. Finkelstein says the Holocaust Industry was created by the pro-Israel lobby in the USA after 1967 to justify aid for Israel. It is also used to put pressure on Governments and corporations to pay compensation. The play *Perdition*, refers to Israel as a nation built upon the pillars of Western guilt and subsidized by American dollars. The Holocaust has been described by Professor W. Rubinstein as "Israel's number one propaganda weapon", while Dr Alfred Lilienthal refers to constant references to the Holocaust as Holocaustomania and claims that the Holocaust has become a new religion for Jews.

Yours faithfully

John Bennett,

President, Australian Civil Liberties Union, PO Box 1137, Carlton, Vic, 3053

*John Bennett*

2 pages.

For reporter on Irving v Lipstadt. Extract from your Rights 2000 available in all newspapers in Australia. Photo copy of front and back cover enclosed.